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French Nazi Hunter Says C.I.A. 'Protected' Barbie

By RALPH BLUMENTHAL

A French lawyer who with his wife tracked down Klaus Barbie in Bolivia in 1971 says he believes that American intelligence authorities "protected" him for five years after World War II, then sent him to Bolivia in 1951 "to cut relations with him."

The Justice Department has begun an investigation into reports that Mr. Barbie was protected as a highly paid American intelligence informant starting about 1948.

According to a highly placed American official, the investigation, which began March 14, is looking into whether

Mr. Barbie may have been resettled in South America under a secret postwar American military program known as "Ratline" that provided new identities for former intelligence informants.

The lawyer, Serge Klarsfeld, an archivist of Nazi crimes, said he did not believe reports that Mr. Barbie had continued to work for American intelligence in South America after the war. He also said his research had led him to discount a West German military police report of 1963, since made public, that listed Mr. Barbie as working for the Central Intelligence Agency and the West German intelligence service.

"Had he continued working for the C.I.A. he would have been protected more efficaciously," Mr. Klarsfeld said. He said he found no special significance in the fact that Mr. Barbie, who became a Bolivian citizen in 1951 under the name Klaus Altmann, made several trips to American cities in 1969 and 1970.

The 50-year-old former head of the Gestapo in Lyons, France, from 1942 to 1944 was extradited to France in February to face trial on war crimes charges involving the deportation of thousands of Jews to death camps in Germany.

It was Mr. Klarsfeld's wife, Beate, who tracked Mr. Barbie to Bolivia after the West German authorities said they could not prove that Mr. Barbie had known that Jews he was deporting were being sent to their deaths.

Mrs. Klarsfeld said she found Mr. Barbie by following up information supplied by a man in Peru and by comparing photographs of the Nazi leader taken in 1942 and 1971.

Convoy-by-Convoy Listing

The Klarsfelds discussed the Barbie case at a news conference in Manhattan on Thursday in connection with the publication of an American edition of a study documenting the cases of nearly 80,000 Jews deported from France and killed in the Nazi occupation.

The 704-page volume, "Memorial to the Jews Deported from France 1942-1944," first published in France in 1978, contains a convoy-by-convoy listing of the victims, ranging from infancy to 95

years old, who were rounded up by the French police and the Nazis for deportation to Auschwitz and other death camps.

Compiling from Nazi and other archives the names, photographs and biographies of the victims, particularly "the little beings separated from their parents," was tearful work, Mr. Klarsfeld said. But he added, "For many families the only thing that tells they were ever alive is this tombstone."

Found Relatives Names

He said Simone Veil, the former president and now chief French delegate to the European Parliament, discovered in the book's listings that her father had been deported to Estonia.

And Natalie Flatow, a worker at the American Jewish Committee where the news conference was held, said she discovered the names of some missing relatives from Eastern Europe in the book.

Mr. Klarsfeld said his research showed that of the nearly 80,000 Jewish victims, more than 50,000 were non-French from 67 countries who had sought refuge in France.

"I want the account in the schoolbooks to show that 90 percent were arrested by the French regular police," he said. "The French Government proposed deporting Jewish children when the Germans were still not ready."

The study is available for \$35 through the Beate Klarsfeld Foundation, P.O. Box 137 South Deerfield, Mass., 01373.

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